

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 7, 13-18, 20-21, 23 and 25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 13, 14, 15, and 16 are amended and no claims are cancelled. No new matter is added. Claims 1, 13, 14, 15, and 16 are the independent claims. Example support for the amendments herein may be found at Para. [0029-0035] and Fig. 2 of Applicants' application.

Examiner Interview

Initially, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Dunn for her time and helpful comments during the telephonic interview of April 3, 2009. During the telephonic interview, Applicants discussed the art grounds of rejections based on US 5,630,006 ("Hirayama"). In response to the rejections, Applicants proposed claim amendments to independent claim 1.

The Examiner agreed that proposed claim 1 distinguishes over the Hirayama reference. Because Applicants have amended claim 1 as proposed and remaining independent claims 13-16 have been amended similarly, the art grounds of rejection have been rendered moot. More specifically, claims 1-3, 7, 13-18, 20-21, 23 and 25 are patentable over Hirayama, and US 2005/0019007 ("Kato") fails to remedy the deficiencies of Hirayama with respect to claims 1-3, 7, 13-18, 20-21, 23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Further, US 7,050,384 ("Sasaki") fails to remedy the deficiencies of Hirayama and Kato with respect to claims 15, 16, 23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending objections and rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

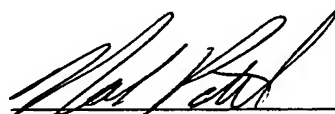
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura, at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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